GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1966
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2008
PASSENGERS SAFETY IN FLIGHTS
Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned Oxygen masks down, AI plane flies appearing in The Times of India dated February 8 2008;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is not paying much attention to the maintenance and up keeping of big planes of the Air India due to which private airlines are taking direct entry into the aviation sector; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for the maintenance and up keeping of the planes of the Indian and the Air India ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): The news item captioned `oxygen masks down, AI plane flies` refers to the incident of Air India aircraft VT-AIM operating flight AI-136 on Delhi-Mumbai sector on 1.2.2008.
The incident was investigated by the Permanent Investigation Board (PIB) which has concluded that the incident was due to non-adherence to Standard Operating Procedures by the flight crew. In view of this the Pilots have been derostered.

(c) and (d): All the aircraft in NACIL fleet are maintained to the highest airworthy standards, meeting all the requirements of the regulatory authorities, as per the approved maintenance schedule/programme & mandatory modifications stipulated by the DGCA as well as the regulatory authorities of the country of the aircraft manufacturer.